Roll on and Roll off systems in the Railways

*746. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives and the achievements of Roll on and Roll off (Ro-Ro) system introduced in Konkan Railway and its advantages over normal goods traffic;

(b) whether the Railways propose to consider experimental introduction of this system in NF Railway, by declaration of tea as a preferential traffic, like coal, to avail huge tea traffic of the region;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Roll-on-Roll-off system introduced on Konkan Railway envisages to combine the railways strength in long-haul with the flexibility of door-to-door services provided by the road-ways in such terrains where the concept it mutually beneficial to rail, road and customers.

(b) There is no proposal for introduction of Ro-Ro system on N.F. Railway.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The system is not considered to be an optimal service for this region.

Lok Jumbish Project for elementary education

*747 SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new phase of Lok Jumbish Project has become operational;

(b) if so, what the targets fixed and achievements made under the Project, as on 31st March, 2002;